

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner set forth an Election of Species Requirement. The Examiner asserted that the application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct Species. In particular, the Examiner identified the Species shown in Figs. 1 and 16 and the Species shown in Figs. 6 and 11.

The Examiner asserted that the Species are independent or distinct because the respective claims recite mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. The Examiner also noted that the Species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record. Finally, the Examiner indicated that no claim is generic.

As noted above, Applicants have elected, with traverse, the Species identified by the Examiner as being illustrated in Figs. 6 and 11. Applicants further set forth that claims 3 and 7 read on the elected Species. Additionally, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12 are all generic. In other words, these claims are not limited to the features of any one specific Species. Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Election of Species Requirement together with an action on the merits of all of claims 1-12 pending in the present application.

As noted above, Applicants have elected the embodiment of Species 2 as identified by the Examiner, with traverse. In particular, Applicants traverse the propriety of the above-noted Election of Species Requirement at least because the present application does not contain claims that are specific to the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 16. As noted above, all the claims in the present application are either generic or read on the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 11. Thus, Applicants traverse the Examiner's requirement and further note that none of the claims contain features that are mutually exclusive of various Species as asserted by the Examiner.

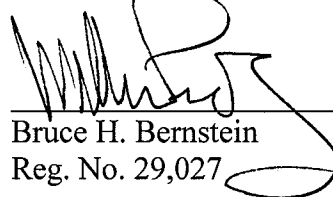
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement together with an action on the merits of all of claims 1-12 pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to comply with the Examiner's requirement and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have elected one of the enumerated Species and have pointed out which claims read thereon and which claims are generic to the present invention. Applicants have also traversed the Examiner's requirement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an action on the merits of all of claims 1-12 in the present application, in due course.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this response or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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